# Memorial.

# James Platt White.

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James P. White

MEMORIAL.

# James Platt White.

1811—1881.

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER PRESS,
BUFFALO, N. Y.

WM. H. BORK,
BINDER.

# James Platt White.

Born March 14th, 1811.

Died September 28th, 1881.

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO.

MEMBER AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBER MEDICAL SOCIETY OF STATE OF NEW YORK.

MEMBER AMERICAN GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

HONORARY FELLOW ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, NEW YORK CITY.

HONORARY MEMBER RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.

HONORARY MEMBER GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BOSTON.

MEMBER ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

MEMBER BUFFALO MEDICAL SOCIETY.

LIFE MEMBER BUFFALO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

LIFE MEMBER BUFFALO FINE ARTS ACADEMY.

LIFE MEMBER YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF BUFFALO.

PRESIDENT OF THE "CHURCH HOME."

PRESIDENT BUFFALO CLUB.

# In Memoriam.

PROFESSOR JAMES PLATT WHITE, M. D.

OBIIT SEPTEMBER 28, 1881.

This is thy triumph, cruel Death! for he
  Who lies asleep, so stately and so grand—
  The princely peer of any in the land—
Had often crossed his victor sword with thee,
To vanquish thee, and set thy victims free,
  When human lives, which dire disease had spanned,
  Received new leases from his skillful hand,
His own grand life he yielded peacefully!

If tears of gratitude by women shed,
  And all their praises, for his special art,
  Were gems and gold, how ample would they be
To build a monument above his head,
  High as his fame and spotless as his heart,
  And worthy the great teacher's memory?

—*Simeon Tucker Clark.*

LOCKPORT, N. Y.

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1882
CITY OF WASHINGTON.

# A Memoir

OF

# Professor James Platt White, M. D.

READ BY

PROFESSOR AUSTIN FLINT, M. D.,

AT THE MEETING OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD AT ALBANY, FEBRUARY, 1882.

THE late Professor James Platt White, within a year of his death, said to the writer of this memoir: "I wish that when I am gone you would write my biography." He had then reached the age of threescore years and ten. He was the personification of healthful vigor, both of body and mind. It seemed reasonable to say, with reference to this wish, that probably he would be the survivor. Providence decreed otherwise, and I have the sad satisfaction of undertaking a compliance with what I regard as his request. The request was not intended as a compliment. It had no reference to any supposed ability, as a writer of biography, for he knew that I had very little experience in that branch of literary composition. It proceeded from a confidence in the writer's qualification for the undertaking so far as this depends on a thorough knowledge of character derived from a very long and a very close intimacy. Our acquaintance began in 1836; we had then just entered upon the struggle for professional success in the city of Buffalo. Our more intimate

relations date from our co-operation in the establishment of the Medical College in that city, in 1846. For the next ten years, during which period we were colleagues and fellow-citizens, we were in almost daily intercourse, and our intimate friendship continued after that period without interruption up to his death. It is certainly rare for a friendship, not involving any ties of consanguinity, to be maintained steadily so long and with complete unreserve in mutual confidence. Perhaps the best evidence of true friendship is entire freedom among friends in making the mental traits of each the subjects of discussion with each other. Our friendship was a true one, as judged by this test. These personal remarks seem called for in justice to the memory of my friend as well as to myself, after having stated his desire that I should be his biographer.

Dr. White's lineage was Puritan, his ancestry in this country extending to Peregrine White, the first male child born in the Plymouth Colony. He was born in Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York, March 14, 1811. At the time of his death, September 28th, 1881, he was, therefore, in his 71st year. His grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and his father, David Pierson White, in the war of 1812. His parents were types of the families which constitute the bone and sinew of this country. They removed to East Hamburg, in the County of Erie, in Western New York, in 1816. This removal at that time was an emigration to the far West. They lived to see their oldest son attain to eminence. At the time of the removal of his father's family to Erie county, he was five years of age. His thirst for knowledge and his application to studies enabled him, with the opportunities within his reach, to acquire a good English, and a fair class-

ical education. He commenced the study of law, but shortly resolved to enter the profession of medicine. Supplementing, by teaching school, the means which his father could afford, he carried this resolution into effect. He attended a course of medical lectures at Fairfield, New York, then the seat of a flourishing medical school, and afterward a course at the Jefferson Medical College, taking from the latter his degree.

Circumstances led him into the responsibilities of medical practice prior to his graduation. During the prevalence of epidemic cholera in 1832, Buffalo and its vicinity suffered greatly from a visitation of that disease. Black Rock, then a village distinct from Buffalo, was insufficiently supplied with physicians. Young White, in this emergency, was solicited to go there as a representative of his preceptors, the two leading physicians of Buffalo. He acquitted himself to the satisfaction of the latter and of the people in the village. This experience had probably not a small influence in preparing him for his subsequent rapid success as a practitioner. It did not, however, prevent him from continuing his studies for two years longer, and acquiring his diploma from an institution then, as now, ranking among the first in this country.

Dr. White established himself as a practitioner in Buffalo in 1835, and in the year following he married Mary Elizabeth, the only surviving daughter of the late Henry F. Penfield, Esq., of the town of Penfield, in New York. This matrimonial union was in all regards conducive to mutual happiness. Shortly after his marriage he met with a remarkable accident. Railroads had not extended in those days into Western New York, and traveling in a stage coach over a rough road, his head was jolted upward against the top of the coach with such force as to fracture the atlas. Fortunately there was

no displacement of the fractured portion of the bone. He was, however, obliged to keep his bed for a long time, and eventually an entire segment of the atlas was expectorated. He recovered, with permanent loss of the power of rotation of the head upon the neck.

Observation shows that, as a rule, very speedy progress at the outset of medical practice is premature and not likely to lead to permanent success. Dr. White's career as a practitioner was an exception to this rule. The instances are rare in which progress was so quick and rapid. His success in acquiring practice became speedily great. In a very few years he had in this respect outstripped not only his competitors of equal age, but his seniors. For more than forty years his practice was only limited by his power of endurance and his willingness to work. His physical capability for work was remarkable, and this together with energy, promptness, self-confidence, added to real ability as a practitioner, secured and maintained a degree of success to which but few attain. He resolved at the outset to succeed, and with him, to resolve was to persevere and spare no efforts requisite for success.

The establishment of the Medical School at Buffalo was very largely due to his exertions. It was necessary to overcome opposition from some of the older and the most influential members of the medical profession in Buffalo. At that time the school at Geneva, New York, had large classes and an able Faculty. Most of the members of this Faculty were led to accept appointments in the Buffalo school, in view of its geographical and clinical advantages. Public interest was aroused sufficiently to obtain the funds needed for a substantial building. The continued prosperity of the school

is fairly a source of pride to those who co-operated in its establishment. Dr. White's labors as the Professor of Obstetrics and Gynæcology were continued up to the time of his death. As a teacher he was direct, forcible and practical; he did not aim at rhetorical or oratorical display, but his object was sound teaching, the value of which was to be verified at the bed-side.

He was the first to introduce into this country in connection with didactic teaching, the clinical illustration of labor, or as he termed it, "Demonstrative Midwifery." The arrangements were made with the utmost regard for propriety and delicacy. The innovation, however, aroused a storm of abuse from the enemies of the College. A protest signed by a number of the medical profession in Buffalo was offered for publication to the editor of the "Buffalo Medical Journal," with the expectation that it would be declined, and that the declination would afford an excuse for its insertion in popular journals. It was, however, accepted and published together with comments by the editor. The result was a combination of several of those who signed the protest to refuse professional association with Dr. White and the editor. Newspaper communications then appeared, intended to excite public indignation against the author of what was denounced as an outrage upon decency. In a so-called religious weekly paper a most scurrilous article appeared, and it was ascertained that after the types of the article had been distributed, one of the most active of the enemies of the College had paid for its being printed anew, and had purchased a large number of copies which he sent throughout the country. Dr. White then appealed to the Grand Jury of the county, and an indictment for libel followed. The trial was a *cause célèbre*, in which the

facts were correctly stated under oath, and with the testimony of eminent medical men, laid before the profession and the public. The triumph was complete; but I should not here refer to these reminiscences except that they serve to illustrate the character of the man who was the object of professional jealousy, and also the truth, that persistence in right convictions will in the end overcome unworthy opposition.

In this connection may be mentioned an act which illustrated alike his ability as a teacher and his generosity. In 1870, the late Professor George T. Elliot was stricken with paralysis. The late Dr. Foster Swift was appointed by the Faculty of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College to give his course of lectures on obstetrics. At the beginning of the lecture session, Dr. Swift was compelled to seek a more genial climate for the restoration of his own health. The College was placed in an embarrassing situation. Dr. White was applied to in the emergency. He at once consented to give the course, declining even the request that his expenses be borne by the College, and relinquishing the income to his afflicted friend, the incumbent of the Chair. The lectures were in the highest degree satisfactory, both to the students and the Faculty.

In recognition of his distinguished position as a practitioner and teacher, he was elected in 1868 Vice-President, and in 1870 President of the New York State Medical Society. At the meeting of the American Medical Association in 1872, he was nominated by the delegates from the State of New York as a candidate for the Presidency, and in 1878 he was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association. He was elected a corresponding and afterwards an honorary fellow

of the New York Academy of Medicine. He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Medical Congress assembled in Philadelphia in 1876.

Dr. White's manifold active duties did not prevent a diligent study of medical works, more especially those treating of subjects pertaining to the department of medicine to which he was specially devoted. He contributed important improvements in practice. One of these deserving particular mention was the restoration of the inverted uterus in cases in which this distressing condition had existed for long periods. Prior to his demonstration of the successful treatment of those cases, they had been regarded as hopeless. The cases in which under his treatment restoration was effected, embraced instances in which the inversion had existed for seven, fifteen and twenty-two years. He was the first to demonstrate the feasibility of the operation, two of his cases having been published before the cases reported by Tyler Smith, of London, on behalf of whom priority has been claimed. Another improvement which may be mentioned related to the construction of the obstetrical forceps. During the last twenty years of his life he devoted much attention to ovariotomy. He performed this operation in more than one hundred cases, the last operation having been performed shortly before his death. His reputation as an ovarotomist, based on the success of his operations, led to his being called to operate in distant parts of the country.

He had but little leisure for literary composition, but he contributed from time to time, articles for medical journals and addresses. He entertained at times the idea of preparing a text-book of midwifery. No one in the country was more competent than he to give sound practical instruction

in that department of medicine, and had he entered upon the work, his pertinacity of purpose would have ensured its completion. The "Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal," the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," the transactions of the American Medical Association, of the American Gynæcological Society, of the International Medical Congress of 1876, at Philadelphia, and of the Medical Society of the State of New York, contain valuable papers contributed by him. He was the author of the articles on Pregnancy in Beck's Medical Jurisprudence, edited by the late Professor Gilman; and of the Life of Bard, in the Lives of Distinguished American Physicians and Surgeons, edited by Professor Gross.

As a speaker and debater he was ready, cogent and courteous. He participated largely in oral discussions at the meetings of the different associations with which he was connected. What he said was always to the point, and always commanded respectful consideration. His opinions on scientific questions and those of polity, well formed and well maintained, never failed to have much influence upon the minds of others.

He was always ready for active efforts in behalf of institutions for medical relief and for clinical instruction. He co-operated actively in the establishment, by the late Bishop Timon, of the Buffalo Hospital of the Sisters of Charity, the Maternity and Foundling Hospitals, and of the Providence Asylum for the Insane. The inception and the localization of the State Lunatic Asylum in Buffalo were very largely and perhaps chiefly due to him. Of this institution he was from its foundation a Manager, and afterward the President, until, shortly before his death, he felt compelled by the state

of his health to relinquish the duties incident to that office. Nor were his interest and activity limited to medical institutions. A zealous member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, he was active in behalf of all the charitable organizations connected with that denomination, and to him, more than to any other of its citizens, is Buffalo indebted for the erection of one of its finest church edifices. He had pride in everything relating to the prosperity and welfare of Buffalo. He was one of the founders of the Young Men's Association, of the Academy of Fine Arts and of the Historical Society in that city. He was eminently a public spirited citizen. Sanitary regulations and all improvements having reference to comfort and the beauty of the city, were sure to enlist his sympathy and co-operation. He co-operated actively in the efforts which secured for Buffalo its magnificent park. In the erection of the finest business edifice in Buffalo, which was completed shortly before his death, he was, as I know, actuated by a desire to leave a memorial which would be ornamental as well as useful to the city where by his prudence and sagacity his fortune had been acquired.

Dr. White furnished an instance, certainly rare in this country, of wealth acquired by the practice of medicine. A pecuniary independence entered into his resolves at the outset of his professional life. No one was more ready than he to heed the dictates of true charity in the bestowal of charitable services ; but he held that, in the absence of these dictates, medical, not less than other services, should be pecuniarily requited. He was outspoken as regards this rule of conduct. He often expostulated with his professional brethren for their neglect of self-justice in this respect. He argued that not only individual interests, but those of the

profession were injured by an assumed indifference, so common with physicians, to a proper compensation for their labors. He contended that the effect was an undervaluation in the minds of patients of the services which they had received. At the same time, he was not less opposed to extortion, and it could not be said of him that he took an ungenerous advantage of circumstances by claiming inordinate fees. To do this would have been repugnant alike to his sentiments and his regard for justice. He did not become rich by parsimony. Without ostentation, his family lived in a manner befitting his wealth and social position. The hospitality which his estimable and accomplished wife, as well as himself, knew so well how to bestow, was unbounded. Twice they traveled abroad, combining with recreation the acquirement of useful information, and tearing himself away from his labors at home, he visited at different times every portion of our own country.

In this biographical sketch of my departed friend, I have given the salient points in his life and character. They show superior intellectual endowments and attainments, united with fixedness of purpose, perseverance, good judgment, tact, unusual executive ability and rectitude—mental qualities which ensure success and usefulness in this world. These qualities of the mind, to which were added vigorous health and physical endurance, could not fail to secure success in medical practice, as regards not only obtaining and retaining patients, but in the management of cases of disease. In this latter sense of the term, I can speak of his success from ample personal knowledge. He investigated cases carefully, but reached conclusions with promptness and decision. He had no confidence in an intuitive ability to

judge of diseases. In his therapeutics he was prompt and decided, without being rash or unduly bold. In the management of cases he was not unduly affected by unfavorable possibilities or probabilities. His attention was more directed to those which were favorable. He was always hopeful for the best, and as long as there was any ground for hope, he never relaxed his efforts. He acted under a deep sense of responsibility to his patients. No one ever accused him of indifference or neglect. These professional traits secured the fullest confidence on the part of the patients. Extraneous methods to possess their confidence were to him not needed. These he held in contempt. In his bearing towards his patients he was independent. He was not a suppliant for confidence. He demanded it as a condition for assuming the responsibilities connected with the management of cases of disease. Of his success as a surgeon I must speak from the testimony of others. The important operations performed by him were chiefly in gynæcological surgery. They embraced, in addition to the large number of ovariotomies already mentioned, all the operations in this province of surgical practice. Quoting from an article in memoriam, from the pen of Dr. E. N. Brush, contained in the "American Journal of Insanity," October, 1881:

"As an operator he was conservative yet bold, and with a fertility of resource which enabled him to readily meet emergencies as they arose. In the conduct of an operation he sought and listened to the suggestions of his assistants and others connected with the case, but once a method of procedure determined upon, he assumed the entire direction, and expected of his assistants, to whom he carefully explained in advance all that he might desire, a prompt and intelligent

anticipation of his wishes, without further suggestion from him. His manner towards his patients was such as to inspire confidence. He was accustomed to say: 'Unless I can have your faith that I am to do the best I can for you, I do not wish to do anything.' He explained frankly the results to be executed and the risks to be incurred, to each patient."

I borrow from the same gracefully written article the language and the quotation descriptive of his personal appearance:

"Dr. White possessed the advantages of a tall and commanding figure, and a countenance which inspired confidence while insuring respect. His years sat lightly upon him. His

> 'Was a stature undepressed in size,
> Unbent which rather seemed to rise,
> In open victory o'er the weight
> Of seventy years to loftier height.'"

It remains to speak of his social and domestic relations. He was blest with that precious gift of Providence, a cheerful temperament. All his friends will recall the heartiness of his habitual greeting. His cheery words and manner made his companionship most agreeable. With the capability of being stern and severe, his friends could always rely upon his geniality. His disposition was devoid of moroseness. He was a steady friend, and always ready to recognize the obligations of friendship. An inflexible opponent, he was not disposed to animosity. He could easily forgive injuries. It gave him great satisfaction to be useful to his friends, and particularly to his medical brethren. He had a certain degree of pride as well as pleasure in pointing the way out of financial and other difficulties, and in exerting himself in behalf of those who sought his assistance. His aid and counsel were

much sought after by those in trouble. He once said to me, "I find that the persons who have been accustomed to abuse me come to me whenever they get into a scrape." And they, as well as his friends, could count upon his assistance. In social intercourse he was not less considerate of the feelings of others than sensitive as regards his own feelings. Although indefatigable in prosecuting his own interest, he rejoiced in opportunities for promoting the interest of others. His home was made happy by his genial disposition and his affectionate relations with his family. Quoting the words of a member of his household, "Whenever he entered the house, cheer came with him." His tastes and habits were thoroughly domestic. His highest enjoyments were associated with home life.

Death came to him at an age when it is considered that to live much longer is to encounter mental and physical infirmities which render our present existence undesirable. But his powers of body and mind were so well preserved, that his departure seemed untimely. During the past summer his health had suffered apparently from overwork and the unusually hot weather, but he appeared to have recuperated after spending a few weeks in the White Mountains, and he returned to his usual routine of labor. The giving way of life was sudden, brief and unexpected. It may be said of him that he died in harness, and I feel assured that his choice would have been so to die. He was spared the trial of the knowledge of the existence of a disease progressing slowly but surely to a fatal termination. His last short illness was unattended by much suffering. He had made every preparation for death whenever it might come. His mind was unclouded up to the last hours of his life. For these sources of consolation, they who remain to mourn for a temporary

separation from one who has been called to another existence before them, have reason to be grateful to the Divine Disposer of human events. To him was vouchsafed a long, a useful and an honorable career fraught with happy memories. In this reflection there is much to console his surviving relatives. It is, however, a saying not less true than trite, that in order to be reconciled to such afflictions, a higher than human power is to be invoked.*

*NOTE.—When this Memoir was written, the last sentence but one contained the expression "his bereaved widow and other relatives." It has been necessary to substitute for this expression "his surviving relatives." The late Mrs. White is no longer a bereaved widow. She departed to rejoin her husband, January 23d, 1882, a little less than four months after his departure.

[Editorial in Buffalo Morning Express, September 29, 1881.]

# Death of Dr. White.

AT ten o'clock last evening Dr. James P. White, probably the oldest and certainly the most distinguished physician in Buffalo, died. He had been seriously ill only a short time, and his passing away so soon was expected but a very little while before his death. Such facts as can be ascertained and presented in regard to his early life and most honorable career, in the brief time between our information as to the sad event and the hour of going to press, will be found on our fourth page. Here we can do little more than bear testimony to his public record and private worth, and express the general sentiment of sorrow that will be felt throughout the country by the profession of which he was so eminent a member, and by the people of this city where he has so long resided and been almost universally known as one of its most active, broad-minded, public-spirited, and cultivated men.

As a teacher and practitioner of obstetrics the fame of Dr. White was co-extensive with his country and reached beyond the sea. His contributions to medical science, especially in the record of his own original operations, have been regarded as of inestimable value to the world. His very last operation was one of a singularly important character, and was performed before he was fairly convalescent from a recent illness. It was successful. The patient was saved, but possibly at the expense of the great surgeon's life, for the excitement and fatigue combined — he was called from some distance — brought on a relapse, and his strength never rallied after that. So he died, as it were, in the harness, as all the world's earnest workers seem to desire to die.

And thus passes away one of the most striking figures in our local history. Every one knew Dr. White. His splendid and imposing presence, his gracious demeanor, his resolute character, his unflinching purpose, his noble form — as erect and vigorous at seventy as that of any well-preserved man of fifty—will remain in the memory of his fellow-citizens as long as they are likely to remember any personal acquaintance. There was no honor which they could bestow that he might not have won. He was ready in debate and an impressive speaker, with the high courage of his convictions. But his ambition was limited to achieving the honors of his profession. He was a devoted member of the Episcopal Church, and gave handsomely from his princely professional income towards her support. He was the founder of the University of Buffalo, and President of its Council at the time of his death. An ample sketch of his life would be a history of the medical profession in Buffalo for the last half century —nay, almost a history of the city itself, for there have been but few important public questions or enterprises since the corporation was established in which he did not become more or less interested. His last large scheme was to erect the most conspicuous edifice on our principal street, and it may well be feared that he put too much of himself, so to speak, into that imposing building which bears his name.

In addition to his professional distinctions, Dr. White was, and for several years had been, President of the Church Charity Foundation, and he was a manager of that beneficent institution from its very humble beginning. He was one of the foremost of the founders of St. John's Church, and also of Christ Chapel, and died President of the Buffalo Club.

A rare man in many ways, whose like *we* at least are not likely to look upon again. He leaves no children. But his sorrowing widow and the nephew whom he called his son, will have the sincere sympathy of all who know how dear they were to him.

# Funeral Address,

BY

REV. LIBERTUS VAN BOKKELEN, D. D.

TO stand at the coffin of a good and generous man, a faithful member of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and before placing him away to rest, to speak a few loving words, moistened with tears of sorrow, fragrant with happy memories of sincere friendship, and comforted with the confidence of a holy hope, is to the Christian pastor and to Christian friends a privilege sweet and tender, though supremely sad.

This is our privilege at this solemn moment. We cannot bury our dead out of our sight and leave no memorial of their worth. We cannot say "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust," without recording the deeds done in the body, while that body was joyous with life and was honored as the temple of the Holy Ghost. I therefore ask the indulgence of a few minutes, while I pay my humble tribute to the distinguished citizen, the good physician, the faithful servant of Christ and the Church, for whose burial we are now assembled. I can speak from the heart, for he was to me a friend earnest and true, a counselor judicious and wise, a man strong in action and always kind, considerate, genial, and affectionate. When he gave his confidence, it was with the sincerity of a noble nature; when he withheld it, it was with the dignity of a calm but positive reserve.

To the members of the profession which he dignified and elevated, he was all that a large heart and a broad mind could make him. He was always ready to help those who were beginning the career in which he had achieved national fame. He generously gave aid and encouragement to those who, pushing on by his side, were striving for the

laurels which adorn the brow of the victor. The knowledge and skill which he acquired were not guarded with selfish greed; they were open to all. They were guides to others that they might do likewise. Thus, while our friend worked for himself, he worked for mankind; and we are permitted to place upon his coffin the tribute due to a philanthropist. Dr. White had no secrets by which he magnified his greatness, or increased the rich emoluments of a wide spread practice. All that he knew belonged to the profession, and all physicians were invited to share, as they had the ability, in the benefits of his achievements. He was a teacher—a great teacher. His knowledge was scattered for the benefit of all who suffer from sickness, in any manner of distress, whether of body or mind. Hence it is that he was honored as the leader of his profession. His opinion was asked in all intricate cases; it was freely given, and his decision was generally final. He was recognized as the court of last resort. He was a Nestor among the most learned doctors, seldom yielding his judgment even to the most distinguished, because his judgment was seldom wrong. Agamemnon said of the Nestor of ancient story, "Had I ten generals like Nestor I would soon see the walls of Troy thrown down." So of this Nestor who lies before the altar at which he so often knelt, I can say, if I interpret aright the sentiments of his medical brothers: "Had the science of medicine ten such practitioners as James Platt White, its triumphs would be more brilliant, its blessings more abundant."

Dr. White was known far and wide. A clergyman who sits near to me said, "In my Western home I heard of the fame of Dr. White; and whenever I returned from a visit to Buffalo, friends would ask, 'Did you see Dr. White?'" So with myself since I have been the rector of Trinity Church. When away from home more inquiry has been made concerning Dr. White, and more greetings sent to him than to any other three citizens of this populous and cultured city.

Upon these professional triumphs I need no longer dwell.

They are recorded in resolutions, judicious and emphatic. They are a part of our history. The evidence is before us in the large delegation of honorable gentlemen representing the various societies of which our brother was a member.

Dr. White holds an eminent position among those typical American citizens who are rapidly passing away; men who cannot be reproduced in our history. They belong to a class as distinct as the patriots of the Revolution. They, like the pioneer heroes of Athens, are Autochthones, literally sons of the soil. Pioneers are not begotten when civilization has subdued the wilderness and society has taken its cultured form. Dr. White worked his own way to the honors which clustered around him when he died. He made the ladder by which he climbed to distinction. He had few advantages of early education. He had no friend but his own genius; no inspiration but his own strong will; no arm to lean upon but his untiring industry. What he was in the fullness of years, when he stood as the intellectual peer of any citizen, he by the grace of God carved out of the rough but fine grained marble of his own individuality. Dr. White was a representative citizen of Buffalo. Here his career began, here it ends. It began fifty years ago with a manifestation of heroism worthy of the early martyrs. It ended earlier than it ought, because his services were needed to save a life, in saving which he sacrificed his own. When twenty-one years of age we find him battling against that terrible scourge, the Asiatic cholera, which with all its malignant virulence had fallen upon the village of Black Rock. The tall form of the young physician was seen in every house where the fearful disease had entered. He said, as did a heroic apostle, "I hold not my life of any account, as dear unto myself, so that I may accomplish my course." This was the keynote of his whole brave life. He never faltered. He was true to himself, true to his convictions, true to his profession, true to his friends. Hence, when nearly seventy-one years of age, and admonished by weakness of body that he needed rest, we see

him obey the summons to go to a neighboring town and perform an operation to which few were equal; a service which cost him his life. He died with his armor on; died amid the halo of his own great exploits. He had prominent and influential connection with almost every work that gives dignity to Buffalo as a city of beneficence and culture. I can say to our citizens, "Show me any work for the public good of which you are proud; any that is for the benefit of all; any from which there could be no return except in the blessed satisfaction which comes of the feeling, 'well done, good and faithful servant;' show me any such work, and you will find connected with it the name and benefactions of Dr. White." None have lived better for this city, while they have lived so well for themselves. No honorable man can envy the wealth, fame and dignity which come to such a citizen. Only the narrow-minded and selfish withhold their admiration and applause. Gladly would I enumerate these labors of love for the good of our beautiful city, and place them as a garland fragrant and brilliant upon his coffin; but what more need I say to you who knew Dr. White so well in the prime of his life, the fullness of his vigor, the completeness of his fame? He was a man of kinglike form, of courtly grace, of genial disposition and affectionate nature, with open hand and kindly words, social yet domestic. He was firm as a rock to what he believed to be right; and when he had made up his mind as to what ought to be done he was fixed as the everlasting hills. The opinions which he held were his own. He felt he had a right to them, and asked no man to share with him the difficulty, responsibility, or even danger of their advocacy.

I turn now to those traits of character and to those works which brought our departed brother very near to me, and which make his loss heavy, his memory dear. Dr. White was a devout and consistent member of the Anglican Catholic Church. Though descended from Puritan ancestors, he was, in my judgment and according to my standard, a complete

churchman; well equipped, conservative but progressive, high and broad; a lover of a dignified and esthetic ritual which symbolized evangelical truth. He was no sectarian. He could see good wherever it existed, and honored the faithful priests, the self-sacrificing sisters of charity whose works are redolent with love for the sick and the suffering, even as he honored those who were nearer to him in doctrine and ritual. He was interested in church extension. When he came to Buffalo there was one Episcopal church, that a wooden edifice of moderate dimensions where now stands the stately St. Paul's. To-day there are thirteen churches, and Dr. White has helped nearly all. He rendered good service in the conventions of the diocese before and after the division, and was prompt with counsel and gifts to aid the chief pastors, according to ability and opportunity. To me he is well known as a devout communicant of Trinity Church, and the wise President of our Church Charity Foundation. It is to his honor, and I trust to his eternal welfare, that I am able to say, there was no layman more constant in attendance upon week-day worship and the penitential services of the solemn season of Lent. Would, dear friends, that more of you would turn aside from the cares and duties of secular life and seek comfort and strength in the prayers and praises of the Church. Dr. White loved the Church. He loved to talk with me of the Church, and I loved to hear him talk, so earnest was he in his convictions, so loyal in his duty. Alas, alas, that those lips are mute, those eyes are sealed. He could say of the Church—

> Beyond my highest joys
> I prize her heavenly ways,
> Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
> Her words of prayer and praise.

It is hard to part with such a friend; but God has called him to the Church triumphant in heaven, and we must say, "Thy will be done." We all mourn his loss; not this congregation only, but the whole Church; for as President of the Church Charity Foundation he was united to us all; he was

among us a representative man, and hence so many of my brethren in the ministry are here to testify to his worth.

From the beginning of that blessed charity, Dr. White has worked for its interests. He alone of its officers was connected with it from its first day until now. He never grew weary of well doing. During the last seven years he had been its chief executive officer. I think that his co-workers of the Board of Managers here present will unite with me in saying that the Church is indebted to Dr. White for the present prosperity of its chief beneficent institution. He labored for it as if it depended upon him alone, and the orphans were his own children. By his sagacious management the Foundation has been lifted out of serious financial embarrassment, has a liberal sum towards a permanent endowment, and is firmly established in the affections of the members of the Church. This happy result is not only largely due, but as some think, wholly due to the judgment of him who was its President, and who cheerfully gave much of his valuable time to its interests. The presence of the orphan children to whose comfort he contributed, and for whom he felt a fatherly affection, sacred and beautiful, adds to the solemnity of these services, and appeals to every heart to be diligent in carrying on the work which our friend has laid down. Remember that it is written, "Now abideth Faith, Hope and Charity, but the greatest of these is Charity." The charity which our departed brother exercised on earth has opened to him the gates of Paradise. There he will rest in peace waiting the day when the Saviour will say to the redeemed, "Enter into the joy of the Lord."

One sweetly solemn thought
Brings to our hearts great calm:
He is nearer home to-day,
Nearer to the Lamb;

Nearer the Father's house,
Where many mansions be;
Nearer the great white throne,
Nearer the jasper sea.

# Action of the Buffalo Medical Association on the Death of Dr. White.

THE hall of the Medical College was well filled at eight o'clock, the hour named for the memorial gathering. There were present Doctors T. F. Rochester, A. M. Barker, D. MacNiel, C. C. F. Gay, C. G. Stockton, Joseph Fowler, Edward Little, T. M. Johnson, B. H. Daggett, C. Diehl, B. H. Grove, H. R. Hopkins, P. H. Strong, Herman Mynter, James Smith, W. H. Pitt, A. R. Davidson, Thomas Lothrop, E. C. W. O'Brien, M. Moody, C. C. Wyckoff, F. W. Bartlett, J. B. Samo, William Ring, R. Hebenstreit, W. C. Phelps, S. W. Wetmore, Lucien Howe, John Cronyn, Miss Mary E. Runner, Miss Mary Berkes, A. H. Briggs, Frank O. Vaughn, William C. Barrett, S. H. Warren, C. L. Dayton, C. M. Daniels, John B. Coakley, W. H. Heath, and Henry Nichell.

Dr. A. M. Barker, the President, announced the purpose of the assemblage in the following words:

DR. BARKER'S REMARKS.

*Gentlemen of the Buffalo Medical Association:*—It becomes my painful duty to announce to you formally to-night that which has already stirred the heart of nearly the entire population of Buffalo —the death of Professor James P. White. Although Dr. White had just passed that memorable waymark, threescore years and ten, and had filled up this rounded measure of life with industry and usefulness, I think few of us were prepared to hear so soon of the departure of one we had all learned to love and respect so much. He was our counselor, and an ardent and reliable friend to every lover of his profession. He will not soon die in the memory and affection of the thousands he has instructed and guided in the profession to which he devoted the most and best of his years, and

it can hardly seem possible that we shall see his venerable presence among us no more. But such is the decree of Him who doeth all things well. And to this wisdom and merciful dealing it becomes us to bow in patient though sorrowful submission.

Ex-President of the Association Dr. Lucien Howe introduced the following resolutions as expressive of the sense of the meeting:

MEMORIAL.

*Whereas*, Following close upon a season of universal sorrow, it has seemed good to the Ruler of Events to deprive our city of one of her most distinguished sons, Dr. James P. White; and

*Whereas*, We, who were honored by being intimately connected with him as fellow-physicians and members of this Association, are most keenly alive to the extent of the bereavement sustained; therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. White, the Buffalo Medical Association, the city of Buffalo, and society at large have together met with a loss which can scarcely be measured or fittingly expressed. The Association mourns one of its founders, one of its most active and eminent members, and one whose scientific zeal reflects credit upon its record. The medical profession has lost a skillful practitioner, whose nerve and judgment were always to be relied upon, whose wise counsel was like a beacon light for guidance, and whose wide reputation added a lustre to this branch of knowledge. The city of Buffalo misses an able citizen and promoter of its interest in every department, and society is deprived of a man whose Christian example will live beyond the grave, and whose energies, like his Master's, were spent in the relief of suffering humanity.

*Resolved*, That while recognizing the hand of Divine Providence, and submitting to the decrees of His unerring wisdom, we deplore the removal of our illustrious associate, while yet in the zenith of his fame and usefulness.

*Resolved*, That our grief for his loss, and the painful void caused by his absence from our midst, shall be incentives to us to emulate

his brilliant career; and, by following in his footsteps as physicians, in so far insure his earthly immortality.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to his family, and to the medical and secular press of the city.

Dr. Howe, in moving the adoption of the resolutions, said:

DR. HOWE'S REMARKS.

I appreciate that we are apt to magnify the good traits of our departed friends. We often speak of them in terms of fulsome praise which they themselves would have condemned, and we, on sober thought, would modify. But, I think, such eulogies may be pardoned now as we gather about the grave of a man whose life was identified with the best interests of our profession. For it is a solemn thing in any case when a veteran, who has battled with death for over fifty years, at last meets him face to face, and falls with the armor on. We lament those who die when yet in the full vigor of their strength, but in addition now we honor a man whom we all knew well, who was the senior of us all, who was equaled by few and surpassed by none. Indeed, it is not too much to say that Dr. White attained that enviable height among physicians here where two men cannot stand at once, and no one man stand undisturbed. He gained that position by long years of persistent labor in his profession, and was a good illustration of the fact that

> "The heights by great men reached and kept
> Were not attained by sudden flight;
> But they, while their companions slept,
> Were toiling upward in the night."

He held that position because he was strong, not simply because of his master mind, forever active in scientific work though it was. The medical world knows that full well. But we realize that he was pre-eminent from his own strength of character. Of a vigorous intellect, of indomitable will, and withal full of sympathy and real affection, he was a type of a manly man, which we would do well to imitate. And now that he is dead, we approach his grave very much as the savages gather about the fallen lion, to rehearse his deeds of prowess—even to take pride in our contests with him; and if we were surpassed, to admit that it was done in a straight-

forward, manly way. But his memory will live after him and after us. His name was identified with two hospitals, a medical college, an insane asylum, an eye infirmary, and other institutions which must continue long after we are dead. They will stand as monuments to perpetuate his memory for many and many a year in the minds of our profession and in the gratitude of suffering humanity.

Dr. Davidson, in seconding the resolutions, paid the following tribute to his deceased friend:

DR. DAVIDSON'S REMARKS.

I rise to second the resolutions offered, with feelings akin to those caused by the death of a beloved father. Concerning Dr. White's pre-eminence as a physician, surgeon and teacher, and as a philanthropist and Christian gentleman, there are others here who can pay a proper tribute in fitter words than I. As I think of Dr. White as my friend, one always ready to counsel, to encourage and to help in time of need, I am at a loss to express the feelings of my heart. But not only do we feel his loss most keenly on account of the love we bore him, but also in that we have lost one whom all, old and young, had been accustomed to lean upon for counsel in the emergencies of practice, and to take comfort from his advice which we knew would be sound and well considered. I believe there is hardly a graduate among the thousands who look upon the school which he founded as their Alma Mater, who will not in their hearts cry out as the sad news reaches them: "Alas, my father!" How we shall miss him! That one grand and manly form will be no more seen in our midst, nor that ringing voice be heard in our councils or college halls. Alas! that we shall see his face no more on earth; but let us rejoice in the belief, which no man can doubt, that he is gone to a better land, whither we too shall come.

Every voice joined in the chorus of ayes as the motion for the adoption of the resolutions was put forth.

Dr. Thomas F. Rochester, who was next called upon for an expression, replied in the following words:

## DR. ROCHESTER'S REMARKS.

I regret very much, Mr. President and gentlemen, that I was unable to spare a moment's time to-day for the preparation of a fitting tribute to our worthy and departed friend. Poets and painters have time and time and again depicted the tall pine tree towering over a forest of cedars, apparently a giant in strength, and without a single sign of decay; and they have also shown us how the great tree has tottered from its base, even on a mid-summer day when all was still, when no tempest was raging, and fallen prostrate without a moment's warning. Thus it was with this monarch among men. It seems but yesterday since we saw him going about, apparently in fair health and vigor. Now he is cut down and has ceased to exist among us. He it was who invited and induced me to come to Buffalo and cast my lot here, a step which I have never for a moment regretted. Dr. White was a truly great man in any position in which he might be placed — in the councils of the church, in civic matters, and in the discharge of his professional duties. Every one feels that a great and irreparable loss has been sustained. His name and his nature will not soon be forgotten. The great point in his character, aside from his skill, was a determination and energy which never allowed him to go back. He pressed on through every obstacle. Most of those who were inimical to him were so because he was greater than they. A practitioner of fifty-two years' standing, he was always true to legitimate medicine. He was prominent and even remarkable in all matters connected with medicine and surgery, in which latter he stood foremost, until he devoted himself particularly to the duties of his chair. He performed most successfully all the great operations associated with gynæcology, having operated for ovarian tumors alone more than one hundred times. But his name and fame are especially connected with the procedure for restoration of inverted uterus, of long standing—which beyond all question originated with him, and is properly spoken of as White's method, and is recognized and practiced as such by the medical profession of the whole world. The speaker was with him in his second operation for this accident, and bears personal testimony to the wonderful skill and perseverance which, after many patient and exhaustive hours of

persistent labor, was crowned with complete success. No person was called in consultation, both in and out of the city, as frequently as Dr. White, and this in all forms of disease—for the large experience and remarkable judgment and strong common sense he possessed made him in all cases a most valuable counselor. He was certainly ambitious, but this with him should be counted a virtue, for his aspirations were quite as much for the profession and for the city as for his own exaltation; witness the State Insane Asylum and the University of Buffalo, which latter, had he lived a few years longer, it was his intention to establish in all the departments granted by its charter, and with him to intend was to act, and to act was to succeed. Of my personal relations with Dr. White I cannot speak without deep emotion. For more than twenty-eight successive years he was friend and physician to myself and my family. In sickness, in sorrow and in joy he shared in all our thoughts and feelings. During this long period but few days elapsed without our meeting, and alas, when it was my privilege to catch his last sigh and to close his eyes, I felt a void in my heart, which must forever, on this earth, remain unfilled.

The next to take the floor was Dr. Wyckoff, who said:

### DR. WYCKOFF'S REMARKS.

My acquaintance with Dr. White commenced in February, 1847, when I first came as a student to Buffalo. He has been an instructor, counselor and friend to us all. He is the last of the elder practitioners in Buffalo of that day. His death is indeed a personal loss to each and every physician in Buffalo. We all looked upon him as a father and as a leader in everything pertaining to the interests of our profession. His death was sudden and unexpected. It does not seem possible to think of him in connection with death. So vigorous and strong was he that he could endure more than most of us that were much younger. I have often wondered at his powers of endurance, and have frequently said to him that I feared he was overtaxing himself. Intellectually, he seemed to have retained all the vigor of youth. If he could have chosen the time and manner of his death, it would undoubtedly have been in the midst of his professional labors.

Dr. E. C. W. O'Brien had the following words of praise for his friend:

DR. O'BRIEN'S REMARKS.

Mr. President, I appreciate the sad privilege of offering my heart-felt tribute to the grand character of my dear, dead friend. His character was such as would command success in any profession. His mind was comprehensive and acute; and his industry, energy and capacity for effective work were prodigious. His nature was broad, deep and self-reliant; and a magnificent physique contributed to make up a well-balanced and finely equipped character. He was a master in his profession; his skill was universally recognized, and his reputation was as broad as the land. He was singularly magnetic, and was known for his dignified demeanor, and a benignity which was thoroughly calculated to inspire confidence and cheerfulness in the sick chamber. He was one of whom his professional brethren were justly proud. He very greatly aided in the development of our city by all possible effort within his power, for he was public-spirited in the highest degree, and I do not think there were many public movements projected for the welfare of our citizens, or that could benefit suffering humanity in our midst, with which he was not prominently and actively identified. I believe there are very few, if any, members of our profession who have not called upon him at trying times and in critical emergencies, for counsel and aid. And how cheerfully ready he always was to render both. His friendship was possessed of that quality that when you most required it was the time he was sure to give you the heartiest demonstration of it. We will all miss him in many ways; and it will be exceedingly difficult to fill his place. His death is a great blow, not to us alone, but to the community at large. I feel that I am touching but lightly upon the great character of my departed friend, whose death we so deeply mourn; but I feel there are others who desire the time and opportunity to express their feelings in regard to the grievous loss which, I am sure, seems very great and personal to us all.

DR. JOHN CRONYN,

who came to the meeting in a feeble state of health himself, said that his feelings were too deep for the outward

expression of speech. Dr. White was his friend, his true friend for thirty-one years, and had once saved his life. Everything that could endear one man to another had transpired between them, and he felt unable to say more than this: Professor White was as kind and courteous as he was good and great.

DR. C. L. DAYTON

said: Dr. James P. White was, if ever a man was, wedded to his noble profession, and no operator could cut with a steadier hand than he when life depended upon the skill of the surgeon. He was one of those noble characters who are so rare that one felt in his presence that he was their superior. He was a self-made scholar and always a great student. I, with the hundreds who have met him in the sick room, desire to express this brief tribute to one whose loss I mourn as deeply as though he were my brother.

Dr. Henry Nichell added a tribute in the following words:

DR. NICHELL'S REMARKS.

Mr. President and gentlemen, it is with profound and sincere regret and sorrow that I rise to pay my share of tribute of honor to the memory of our departed friend, Professor James P. White. Indeed, so much has already been said by eloquent members of this Society in regard to the very many excellent qualities, merits and virtues of the deceased great physician, that I find myself at a loss to utter something more in praise of his great achievements during his long and eventful career. I am rather painfully compelled to confine myself to lay before this fraternity my own lasting admiration for the deceased's eminent professional and personal worth, and my profound feeling of grief and regret at the loss of such a kind friend and adviser as Professor White has been to me since 1850, when I had the honor first to become acquainted with him. His loss to the profession, the medical department of the University of Buffalo, and the community will be long and sorrowfully felt.

Dr. J. B. Samo had the following remarks to offer:

DR. SAMO'S REMARKS.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Medical Association:—In rising to speak on this solemn occasion, I do so with a feeling of diffidence, lest I should say more or less than becomes me. But, sir, I feel I can say, as was said of one of old, "A great man has this day fallen in Israel." My acquaintance with Dr. White antedates, perhaps, that of any other physician in Buffalo, having begun so long ago as 1841. Even at that time, sir, he was a leading character in the profession. With an extensive general practice, he was also the surgeon *par excellence* of Buffalo. And permit one who was then fresh from the teachings and presence of Valentine Mott, to say that Dr. White impressed me as one having the requisites of a great surgeon; such as good judgment, a quick perception, great presence of mind, versatility in resources, of immovable nerve, and unusual manual dexterity. But I need not dwell on these, they are well known to many present on this occasion. A man of great force of character, the influence of his suggestions upon the various questions pertaining to our profession were felt like leaven, imparting life and activity to them. It may seem like presumption in me to attempt an analysis of his professional character, yet I may venture to point out among its more prominent features a keen and unerring preception, great determination of will, great energy and wonderful tenacity of purpose. Among the remarkable men who have practiced the profession of medicine in Buffalo, Dr. White must be conceded a place in the foremost rank. And, sir, his loss creates a void in our professional life that where is the man can fill? "Take him for all in all, we shall not look upon his like again."

DR. P. H. STRONG

said that besides himself there was only one present, Dr. Samo, who was with Dr. White at the birth of the College. It was formed thirty-three or thirty-four years ago, and he could never forget the kindness that he had always received from that time from Dr. White. The latter's office was at that time on Main street, at precisely the place where the

great White fire-proof building now stands. That it is true that death loves a shining mark is shown when such a man as Dr. White is cut off. He was a great man. The speaker never knew one more loyal to the profession. Dr. White had made himself dear to him, having been for many years his family physician. He could never forget the claim the deceased had had on those near and dear to him from having seen them through great straits. Dr. White was a leader in the profession. He was a natural leader. If he had been a general, the speaker was of the opinion that he would have been the equal of Gen. Grant.

Dr. Rochester moved that all the members of the Association attend the funeral in a body.

Carried.

At the request of the family, two old students under Dr. White, Drs. William Ring and L. P. Dayton, were appointed pall-bearers.

Dr. Van Peyma took the floor for a few moments to add a few words in commendation of the generous nature of the deceased, and said:

DR. VAN PEYMA'S REMARKS.

Mr. President, I desire simply to express my sorrow at the death of Dr. White. He was a man to whom a large number of the younger members of the profession justly feel indebted for endorsement, encouragement, and material aid. These he freely gave, not thinking it necessary to put out the lesser lights that his might shine the brighter. On the contrary, while zealous of his own reputation, he guarded those of his friends. In his ambition he looked within himself and relied upon his own sterling qualities for advancement. His efforts have received their reward in a reputation that few can hope to rival. And it can truthfully be added, that in helping himself he helped those about him; in his rising they were lifted up. The appreciation of our loss in the death of such a man will continue to increase for many a day to come.

The only letter of regret from absentees was the following

FROM DR. BURWELL.

DR. MACNIEL: September 29th, 1881.

*Dear Sir*:—Please make my profound regrets to the President and to the Society that I am not able this evening to attend the meeting called to-day. We have, indeed, in the death of Dr. White lost the man the most prominent of all our associates, and the one who, perhaps, more than any of the rest of us, gave character and consideration to the profession of our city. Our loss is certainly the greatest we could sustain, and I join you all in keenly bewailing his death, in the high estimation we all entertain of his great worth, and in the painful sense of personal bereavement which must come home to the consciousness and hearts of each and every one of us.

With sincere regards,

GEO. N. BURWELL.

The meeting then adjourned.

# Erie County Medical Society.

A MEETING of the Erie County Medical Society, to take action in regard to the death of Professor James P. White, was held Friday afternoon, September 30th, at the Medical College. The President, Dr. John Hauenstein, being absent in Europe, the Vice-President, Dr. T. M. Johnson, assumed the Chair, with Dr. A. M. Barker at his post of duty as Secretary. The members in attendance were Doctors T. M. Johnson, A. M. Barker, D. A. Bailey, S. W. Wetmore, L. P. Dayton, Henry Nichell, E. E. Storck, John Cronyn, William Ring, Charles A. Ring, Joseph Haberstro, A. H. Crawford, F. F. Hoyer of Tonawanda, G. W. Pattison, C. M. Daniels, J. E. King, J. B. Coakley, S. H. Warren, E. T. Dorland, W. D. Bidaman, R. L. Banta, J. Sloan, H. Kammerling, L. F. Harvey, C. W. Harvey, Edward Storck, F. W. Bartlett, C. C. Frederick, John Dambach, M. B. Folwell, B. Bartow, Joseph Fowler, Mary B. Moody, Mary E. Runner, C. G. Stockton, B. H. Grove, C. H. Guess, S. F. Mixer, A. Dagenais, A. R. Davidson, M. Hartwig, Joseph W. Keene, Lucien Howe, Herman Mynter, C. Diehl, D. W. Harrington, F. W. Abbott, D. MacNiel, J. S. Smith, W. C. Phelps, E. Clark, W. P. Van Peyma, and E. C. W. O'Brien.

In announcing the purpose of the special meeting, the Chairman said:

DR. JOHNSON'S REMARKS.

*Gentlemen:* —As your presiding officer it becomes my painful duty to inform you that the busy reaper, Death, has again visited our ranks, and taken from among us one of the noblest, one of the best, one of the most illustrious of our members. Dr. James P. White died at his residence at ten o'clock on Wednesday night. It is unnecessary for me to dwell at length on the many qualities of head and heart by which our deceased brother endeared himself

to all of us. He is gone, and it is fitting that this Society should testify in the most proper manner to the sense of loss which is so evident on every countenance. I think Dr. White was a member of this Society for a longer period than any other one in it, though there are some gentlemen here whose hairs are whiter and whose years have mounted to a higher number than his. Gentlemen, I await your pleasure.

Dr. A. R. Davidson moved that the Chair appoint a committee to draft suitable resolutions expressive of the grief of the Society at the death of their late associate.

The motion prevailed, and the Chair appointed Doctors Storck, Cronyn, Folwell, Dayton and Davidson. During their temporary absence from the room, the sentiment of the Society found expression in eulogistic utterances.

Dr. William Ring, an old friend of the deceased, and one of the pall bearers appointed by the Society at the request of the family of Dr. White, spoke as follows:

DR. RING'S REMARKS.

*Brethren:*—Very suddenly and unexpectedly has death again entered our ranks. Most of us were surprised when we learned that Dr. White was no more. I should do great injustice to my feelings if, on this occasion, I failed to express the thoughts suggested by his demise. Thirty-four years ago last March, fifty or sixty young men assembled in the building that had been fitted up on the corner of Seneca and Washington streets, the site of the present Post Office, to hear the introductory lectures to the first course of lectures delivered in the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo. Many of us had attended a course at Geneva the previous winter, and had come to Buffalo because a part of the Geneva professors lectured here also. The term closed June 16th, 1847. Sixteen students graduated, among whom were Dr. James E. King and myself. I believe the lectures given here by Doctors Lee, Webster, George Hadley, Hamilton, Flint and White were not excelled by any of the medical schools of the country. Soon after graduating, I heard Professors Gilmore and Bedford of New York

City, and it was no small praise to say that Dr. White was their equal. In 1849 I settled here, and had soon to test in practice the lessons taught in the lecture rooms. Dr. White was often called in consultation by me, and I always found him a most excellent diagnostician and skillful operator. Thirty-two years of practice brings to us many trying and dangerous cases. His presence in the sick-room was in itself an inspiration. None of us will forget his manly and open countenance, his cordial greeting, his short and clear questioning, or prompt examinations; his keen eye, cool, clear head, or steady hand. He was not excelled as a general practitioner, and was, in early years, a skillful operative surgeon, and had all the qualities for excellence in that branch, had he pursued it. In the practice of his specialty he introduced and popularized one operation that will give him an honorable and lasting place in the history of medicine. In the local history of Buffalo his name will long be remembered in connection with the founding and building of St. John's and Christ Churches, the Church Home, the General Hospital, and the State Asylum for the Insane. To all of these institutions he gave liberally of his time, and to some his money. His professional services were freely and gratuitously given to the poor; he was for years consulting surgeon to the General Hospital, and the Buffalo City Dispensary and the Eye and Ear Infirmary. He was the attending physician at the Lying-in-Hospital on Edward street; for two years he was the medical superintendent of the Providence Lunatic Asylum. Although he was, what most of us are not, a good financier and business man, he was a liberal benefactor to the poor. Strong in his attachments, and equally strong in his resentments, he was a born leader; more than all, he governed himself. It is much to his credit that with abundant wealth he was still industrious, pursued his studies and practice; that he shunned the allurements of fashion, appetite and intemperance. A most noble example to follow, he is another of the many noble men which our country has furnished, who have risen to eminence under the fostering influence of our free institutions. Thus hath fallen, with his armor on, the Nestor of our profession in this city, and none of us are able fill his place. A sense of great grief and personal bereavement oppresses me as I think I shall see him no more; that never again shall I see him in the

representative meetings of our profession; that no more to command our counsel, shall he fight the battle of life, or meet "the pestilence that walketh in darkness, or the destruction that wasteth at noon day."

The Committee on Resolutions appeared at the termination of Dr. Ring's speech and submitted the following

RESOLUTIONS:

*Whereas*, It has pleased God to remove from among us Dr. James P. White, whose career, both professional and otherwise, has been one of singular success; and,

*Whereas*, As it has contributed to the renown of the man, so has it to this Association, with which he has so long and so honorably been connected;

*Whereas*, Every member of our Society has had more or less intimate acquaintance with our departed friend, and always found him courteous, kind and instructive, how much the more is felt the loss we have all suffered at his taking off; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, with heartfelt sorrow sympathize with the bereaved family in their misfortune, and express our great grief at the general loss to the medical profession and the community at large.

*Resolved*, That we attend the funeral in a body.

Following the unanimous adoption of the resolutions, further remarks were made in the following order:

DR. HABERSTRO'S REMARKS.

Gentlemen, by this blow we lose one who has been most illustrious in our ranks. No physician in this city has practiced so long or so skillfully as he. The old guard to which he belonged are nearly all gone. He was pre-eminent among them. I knew him for sixteen years, during part of the time at this college. He was always a courteous and helpful friend, sagacious, full of tact, ambitious and industrious. These are the qualities that made him

what he was, our chief. He died at the zenith of his fame, and before the infirmities of years had fallen heavily upon him.

DR. STORCK'S REMARKS.

While still grieving, as American citizens, over the loss of a loved and trusted Chief Magistrate, we of the Erie County Medical Society are called upon to weep afresh for another great man, for one who, though not so illustrious, will yet be missed by the citizens of Buffalo with almost as keen regret. He was a citizen of Buffalo, and we all recognize the fact that a great man has gone from among us. Dr. White's character may be summed up by saying that he was well-meaning, patriotic, energetic, kind, noble. He held as high a place as can be held by any physician, being known to medical and scientific fame not only in this city and State, but throughout the country and in foreign lands. His name is enrolled upon the topmost lists of successful physicians. As a citizen he gave his services, his heart and his help to whatever promised to best promote the interests of the city. Some of the institutions which he founded are destined to form part of the history of the city, and no insignificant part either. With his energy and means he built up this College of Medicine, of which we can be justly proud, and to which we need not be ashamed to point when away from home. His good deeds and exalted reputation will stay forever green in our memories, and will last longer than any monument of stone.

The meeting adjourned after deciding to meet in a body at a quarter before two o'clock, Saturday afternoon, October 1st, in the Sunday-school room of Trinity Church, whence they will proceed to the Church.

# Action of the Alumni.

IMMEDIATELY after the adjournment of the Erie County Medical Society, the members resolved themselves into a meeting of the Alumni Association of the Buffalo Medical College, most of those present being members of both organizations. Dr. W. C. Barrett, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presided, and Dr. A. M. Barker discharged the duties of Secretary. By a unanimous vote the following resolutions were adopted:

*Whereas*, The unexpected removal by death of Dr. James P. White, crushing as is the blow to his medical co-laborers and his immediate associates, falls with additional weight upon us who for years sat under his teachings, and to whom he was not only the professional counselor and adviser, and the warm personal friend, but the revered preceptor, the faithful master under whose wise discipline we received our professional schooling, and were armed for our life's combat with disease and suffering; and,

*Whereas*, This Association in his death lost one of its warmest friends and most powerful supporters, one who was not only active in its foundation, but whose watchful care and friendly aid was never lacking when in the past and early history of the Association such kindly offices were at times sorely needed; and

*Whereas*, Our beloved *Alma Mater* has in his death sustained a blow well nigh irreparable, and must long suffer by this removal of her chief support; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we, the members of the Alumni Association of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, deeply deplore the loss of Professor James P. White, and that it is not in obedience to mere formality, but as the promptings of hearts sore with the sense of great personal loss, that we seek this method to express our respect, our veneration, our love for the memory of one who was ever so tender, so considerate with his juniors in a pro-

fession in which he himself was so distinguished, and which he so graced and honored.

*Resolved*, That this Association, as a poor mark of its appreciation of the loss which it has sustained in the death of Professor White, will place in the professorial room lately occupied by him at the College and on his lecture stand in the amphitheatre an appropriate mourning badge, and that we will attend his funeral in a body.

*Resolved*, That to our *Alma Mater*, so sadly bereft, we tender our renewed expressions of love and confidence, and pledge ourselves by the increased devotion of her sons and daughters to do all that is possible by way of compensation for this great, this irremediable loss.

*Resolved*, That to the immediate members of his family, and to his associate teachers in the Buffalo Medical College, we tender our condolence and the assurance that while with them we mourn our loss, we are yet thankful that we have the stimulus of his successful efforts and the example of his generous and noble life.

*Resolved*, That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Association; that one be transmitted to the family of Professor White, and another to the Secretary of the Faculty of the College.

Addresses of eulogy from graduates of the College being next in order, Dr. W. C. Barrett took the floor and said:

DR. BARRETT'S REMARKS.

I desire to affirm that it is not while standing beneath the shadow of his coffin that we, the Alumni of Buffalo College, first become sensible of the worth of Professor White. We have too often listened to his wise teachings, too often been the recipients of his sage counsels, too often witnessed instances of his careful watch over us as students, and his anxious supervision of the launching of our professional bark, not to have valued him as something more than a professional senior. That he was a faithful teacher needs not to be asseverated here among his old pupils. Had his solicitude ended with the close of the term of pupilage of each student, his care and watchfulness ceased with the delivery of the diploma bearing

his signature which each of us has received, we could then have said he did his duty faithfully. But every worthy graduate of this College knows that Professor White's jealous care for his pupils closed only when, last Tuesday night, he yielded up his latest breath. Every one of us has, not always to his own knowledge, received evidences of the careful concern with which in life the honored dead kept watch over our professional career. We all remember how in the lecture-room he patiently strove with our oftentimes perplexing lack of comprehension. We all remember how kindly we were welcomed to his room, and given ample share of time, every moment of which had its money value, and how patiently he explained the abstruse things of medical science, so mystical to us, so manifest to him. Speak, fellow-students! Did the faithful teacher ever turn away his ear, or exhibit impatience at your inquiries?

Professor White dead! That splendid physique laid low in the dust? That clear, ringing voice forever hushed in death? The mind recoils from the thought. We know, for we are so told, that within the walls of that home—so familiar to graduates of these later years—there lies his poor, inanimate corse; that across the peaceful breast, once the home of so many generous impulses, lie folded those deft fingers that in life could so skillfully guide the scalpel or the probang; yet though to our reason this is revealed, our consciousness refuses to admit the fact, and even now we are prompted to look around for the well-remembered face.

Dr. White gone! What to us is it that Buffalo has lost her distinguished citizen? That medicine is bereft of her illustrious son; that society is deprived of one of her brightest ornaments; that the Church will miss one of her most faithful supporters; that the poor, the miserable, and the unfortunate, the suffering children of disease and want, aye, even of crime, are stricken in his death! To us, at this moment, comes home the sharp sense of *personal* loss. He who was faithful in reproving our shortcomings, was equally ready to assist us to a better and a higher conception. He to whom we have looked for guidance over a perhaps yet untrodden, or unfamiliar and strange path, is gone, and upon whose arm shall we henceforth lean? The very sternness of the reproof which perhaps some of us, to our present sorrow remember, we can now see was evoked by the kindliness of his heart, and the anxiety of his

interest for our welfare, and how shall we now show him that his solicitude was not wasted?

Well may we, the children of his professional care, cry out in the anguish of our hearts, alas, alas! our father! Alas, alas! for *Alma Mater!* who shall fill his chair? Who shall attempt to supply the vacant place? Whoever he may be, and whatever he may prove to future generations of students, he cannot be to us, who have already gone out from beneath the sheltering walls of this institution, the ægis, the guardian, the guide which our dead teacher and friend has ever been.

But while we weep, we rejoice that he has been. We are grateful that it was our lot to receive his words of wisdom. We are thankful that we too are inheritors of a name which exhales so sweet a fragrance that the perfume will linger with us to our latest day. We will cherish his precepts. We will exhibit our regard for him by an increased love for our *Alma Mater*, which he was so actively instrumental in founding and supporting. We will keep his memory green in our hearts, and as we strive to cherish and perpetuate whatever of good we owe to him, and to make subservient to our fellow-men the knowledge and skill with which our beloved teacher armed us, so shall we build to him a monument higher than Egyptian pyramids, and more enduring than graven brass.

"And the stately ships go on
To their haven under the hill.
But oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
And the sound of a voice that is still."

Dr. C. M. Daniels then addressed the Alumni, as follows:

DR. DANIELS' REMARKS.

I have listened with great respect and feeling to the earnest expressions of sorrow by the older members of the profession upon the death of our revered and honored friend, Dr. James P. White. From their remembrances of his earlier career to the present week he has been pre-eminently acknowledged as the friend of the young physician, and as such I cannot let this opportunity pass without adding one little tribute of respect as an additional stone in the erection of his memorial edifice. His constant life work has been

for the best interests of his profession. We have looked up to him as a child to a father, and his valued advice and wise counsels were every ready at our command. My associations with him for the past three years have been of the most intimate character, and personally I esteemed him above all other men, and I believe I have the honor of being the last of the young practitioners to receive his instruction and assist him in his last operation, which no doubt hastened the beginning of the end.

His persevering character is well known. He never stepped backward, and many times he has said to me, "Whatever you undertake, carry through to the end."

No man in our city could be more greatly missed. No one can fill his place. Ripe with the experience of many years, he died at the zenith of his fame. Truly here has fallen "one of nature's greatest noblemen."

DR. SAMUEL H. WARREN

testified to the high appreciation felt for Dr. White among students. He said that the Professor had an inspiring influence in his classes. He was not only affable and kind, but had a remarkable power of imparting his almost limitless professional learning. In the class-room he was unsurpassable as an instructor, while his manners were pleasant and attractive. It seemed sad that he should have passed away, and that the immense learning he had stored away should be lost. Dr. Warren particularly dwelt upon the amiable traits of character disclosed by Dr. White.

The meeting then adjourned.

## Action of the Hospital Staff.

THE medical staff of the Buffalo General Hospital held a meeting at the residence of Dr. J. F. Miner, on Main street, last evening, to take action on the death of Dr. James P. White. There were present, Doctors Miner, Diehl, Phelps, Wyckoff and Burwell. The latter was called to the Chair and made a few remarks concerning the deceased. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, Death has suddenly removed from our companionship Professor James P. White, M. D., one of the oldest and most trusted members of the Consulting Board of the medical staff of the Buffalo General Hospital, thus bringing to us, his friends and associates, great personal grief and bereavement, and also to the institution he has so faithfully and successfully served, irreparable loss; therefore,

*Resolved*, That in the death of Dr. White the Buffalo General Hospital is deprived of a most efficient, wise and influential friend and supporter, and we, the members of its medical staff, an experienced, learned and trustworthy adviser, whose wise and judicious counsel has ever been to us an unfailing source of strength and support.

*Resolved*, That in the sad and mysterious providence which has so unexpectedly brought to a close this long and honorable life, so full of usefulness, and so largely devoted to the interests of the poor and sick, we see how uncertain are all the schemes of earthly ambition, but how that an earnest life may be crowned with their complete fulfillment.

*Resolved*, That in this time of grief and affliction, we extend to the wife and family of our respected and worthy co-laborer a deep and heartfelt sympathy which we have no words to express.

*Resolved*, That our Secretary be requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased, and also to the medical and daily press of the city for publication; and that they be preserved in the records of the Buffalo General Hospital.

# Action of the Pharmaceutical Association.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Erie County Pharmaceutical Association was held at the rooms in the Young Men's Christian Association Building, yesterday afternoon, and it was attended by many of the representative druggists of the city. The object of the meeting was to take appropriate action on the death Dr. James P. White. Remarks were made by Messrs. A. R. Davidson, Julius Rieffenstahl, J. P. Diehl, and others. The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

While it has pleased an all-wise Creator to call from this life Dr. James P. White, we, the members of the Erie County Pharmaceutical Association, feel it our solemn duty to express our feelings of respect for him in his life, and our sincere regret at his death; therefore,

*Resolved*, That we, as pharmacists and members of the Erie County Pharmaceutical Association, have experienced a loss in the death of Professor James P. White, second only to that endured by the medical profession, and that we offer our heartfelt expressions of sympathy to the widow and family of our late friend.

*Resolved*, That the members of the Association attend the funeral in a body.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the Association, and that a copy of the same be transmitted to the family of our deceased friend and to the press of the city.

# The Buffalo Club.

A MEETING of the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Club was held Saturday evening, October 1st, the First Vice-President, Mr. Josiah Jewett, in the Chair. On calling the meeting to order, Mr. Jewett spoke as follows:

*Gentlemen:*—At this time of general public sorrow, not only in this country but also in every part of the civilized world, caused by the death of President Garfield, it devolves upon me to announce to you that death has entered into our presence—into our home—and taken away our beloved and respected friend and associate, Dr. James P. White, President of this Board. This is the first time in the history of the Buffalo Club that its highest officer has been removed by death. It therefore seems eminently proper that this evening we should only take such action as will commemorate the fact and pay suitable respect to the memory of our lamented President.

On motion, a committee of two was appointed to prepare suitable resolutions, consisting of Mr. Sheldon T. Viele to represent the Board and Hon. Harmon S. Cutting to represent the Club.

The committee, after consultation, presented the following

MEMORIAL:

Died on the 28th day of September, instant, at his residence, in this city, Dr. James P. White, President of this Club.

For the first time in the history of our institution its chief officer and head has been removed by death. In view of this sad occurrence and of the eminent character of the deceased, it is peculiarly fitting that the Club take proper notice of this, the lamented departure of our friend.

Dr. White was a man of mark in many respects. His great eminence and skill in his profession have been attested not only

by the eloquent and truthful utterances of his professional brethren, but by a long career of almost exceptional success. Our citizens may take a just pride in that page of their history which shall contain the record of his high and justly deserved reputation.

As a citizen our departed friend was no less entitled to the high esteem of his fellows. A citizen here from the very creation of our municipality, he had ever been conspicuous in whatever could promote its advancement and prosperity. At once wise, prudent and enterprising, he has left behind him, in characters which will not soon be effaced, the impress of his robust and upright character.

In all his relations with his fellow-men he was ever the dignified, kind and courteous gentleman, and none could more fully appreciate this than the members of this Club. His impressive form, his genial smile and pleasant words of greeting will long be remembered among us; and we record this memorial as an expression of our sorrow and as an evidence of an appreciation of the greatness of the loss we have sustained in his death.

It was then unanimously resolved that the memorial be adopted as read; that it be entered upon the records of the Club; that a copy be transmitted to the family, and the Directors' room be suitably draped for thirty days. After which, the meeting adjourned.

# The Church Home.

IN MEMORIAM.

ENTERED into life on the 28th day of September, 1881, James P. White, President of the Charity Foundation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the city of Buffalo.

The Board of Managers, assembled in special session, place on record their grateful sense of appreciation of the labors of the late President as manager from the incorporation of the Foundation in 1858; for seven years its President, and at all times one of its most liberal benefactors; and we also bear witness to the irreparable loss sustained by the Church in this city in the direction, support, and management of its special field of charity committed to our charge.

This institution, which has extended its care and protection over hundreds of fatherless children and provided the blessings of a home to the aged, is in itself a fitting expression of this living faith in the system of practical charity which it is the purpose of the Foundation to foster and encourage, and of his earnest and continued sympathy in its behalf.

We record the inestimable value of his sagacious counsel in periods of great financial embarrassment, and gratefully acknowledge that to his ripe experience and judgment we are indebted for the present prosperous condition of the Foundation in all its varied interests.

We recall the bright hopes he often expressed of its future, and his anticipations that at an early day structures commensurate with the needs and importance of our work, the dignity of the Church, and the wealth of our growing city, would be erected.

We are indebted chiefly to his efforts for the liquidation of the heavy financial burdens which until a recent period crippled the work in which his affections were so actively enlisted, and also for the establishment of an endowment fund, which it was his earnest

desire to foster and augment, until the institution could be placed on a permanent and self-sustaining basis and made equal to the demands of the Church in this city.

The improvement in the internal interests of the Foundation by the introduction of deaconesses is largely due to his co-operation and sympathy.

Recognizing the deep weight of obligation to which his long and active relations with the Foundation has placed us, we join in expressions of devout gratitude to Almighty God that this servant of the Church was spared to the allotted age of man to minister, for the Master's sake, to the poor and the needy, the sick and the dying, and at the close to give a noble record of his stewardship.

THOS. LOTHROP,
JAMES E. FORD,
THEODORE F. WELCH.

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[From CHURCH HOME QUARTERLY, January, 1882.]

## In Memoriam.

It becomes our sad duty to chronicle the death of the President of our Board of Managers, Dr. James P. White. So much has already been said and written in this vicinity upon this social loss to our community—and in the official action of this Board upon the loss which it has suffered in the death of its President — that it seems almost presumptuous on our part to add anything either of encomium or regret to what has been so often and ably said before. Yet it would not be fitting that the official organ of the Church Home should not make record of the painful loss it has sustained in the death of this distinguished man. A member of the Board from its beginning—and for many recent years President — he has labored unceasingly for the interests of

the Charity, and had the proud satisfaction of seeing its affairs assume a most prosperous shape through his unwearied efforts. The numerous articles which have appeared in the columns of the city papers, as well as the editorials and obituaries of the medical journals, giving the history of his professional life, and expressing the great loss which society and his profession have suffered in his death, sufficiently testify that he has not lived in vain. Dying as he did from over exertion and zeal in the practice of his healing art, he gave up his life, as he would have surely wished to do, while his skill would be missed, and his energy longed for—dying literally in the harness. It was touching, indeed, to be present at the family residence on those sad days immediately following his decease, and see the grief, and listen to the many expressions of sorrow and regret, spoken over the manly form which lay there so grand yet helpless in its hushed repose.

To the young men of his profession he was always a kind and sympathizing friend, and their sorrow is well attested in the resolutions passed by the Alumni of the Medical College. Says the obituary in the "Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal:"

"Not many men have been more earnest, unremitting workers than Dr. White, and few have reaped a more abundant harvest, for he gathered into his garners fame, wealth, and high social position, as the well-earned reward of many years' toil."

We find in the memorial of Dr. E. N. Brush:

"He was not alone active in his profession, but as one has said in writing of him, 'An ample sketch of his life would be a history of the medical profession in Buffalo for the last half century—nay, almost a history of the city itself, for there have been few important public questions or enterprises since the corporation was established in which he did not become more or less interested.' He was a prominent and active member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and for years President of the Church Charity Foundation,

an institution which owes much of its present stability to his management. * * * * * * * * * *

"Thus passed from our profession one of its most brilliant ornaments. With a character which would have won laurels in any field of endeavor, he was content to pass his life in the earnest, active pursuit of his profession. In his calling, it is true he won position and wealth, but at the expense of work, for which few physicians of the present day possess the vigor. Whatever he undertook he carried to its fulfillment. He possessed determination and the courage of his convictions—a courage which consisted in an 'equality to the problem before him; * * * equality to the problem in affairs, in science, in trade, in council or in action.'

"The product of a hardier experience and a more simple training than those of the present day, we shall seldom look upon his like again. He achieved Emerson's definition of a great man, 'he is great who is what he is from nature, and who never reminds us of others."

But when all is said, we sadly bury alike our grief and commendations in the grave, which is the end of all things earthly.

There is but one comfort in these sad losses which come day by day, and week by week, until it seems a whole generation is passing out of sight down the road from whence is no returning—that this short life, which is only for the moment, leadeth to one eternal, unchangeable and full of glory, for all who have faithfully fulfilled their duties here.

"From glory unto glory!
Thank God that even here
The starry words are shining out
Our heavenward way to cheer!"

# University of Buffalo.

THE regular annual meeting of the Council of the University of Buffalo was held at the Young Men's Association Rooms, at 4 o'clock, P. M., February 21st, 1882, when the following proceedings were had:

Present—The Hon. O. H. Marshall, President of the Council; the Hon. E. G. Spaulding, Thomas F. Rochester, M. D., Charles Cary, M. D., and Messrs. John Wilkeson, George S. Hazard, George E. Hayes, John D. Shepard, David Gray, James Hollister and James N. Matthews.

The meeting was called to order by the President. On motion of Dr. Cary, the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with.

The Secretary then read the following:

*Whereas*, By the death of Dr. James P. White, one of the founders of our University, and a member of the Board, this Institution has lost one of its ablest councillors and most zealous supporters.

*Whereas*, We are largely indebted to his persevering effort for the establishment of our Medical Department, and its growth to its present flourishing condition has been greatly promoted through his instrumentality.

*Resolved*, That we recognize with just pride the eminent professional abilities of the deceased, by which he acquired a national reputation, and we sympathize with his family, with his professional brethren, and with his survivors in the Medical Department in their common loss.

*Resolved*, That we deem it due to the memory of our associate, at the close of his honorable career, to bear testimony to his private worth and unsullied reputation. His marked decision of

character and tenacity of purpose were strongly impressed on his public duties, and beneficially felt in the various benevolent and Christian enterprises in which he engaged.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be transmitted to the family and published in the daily city papers.

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## Buffalo Medical College.

The 28th day of September, 1881, must ever remain an era of most memorable sadness in the annals of the Buffalo Medical College. On that day the demise of Professor James P. White broke a relation which nothing else could have effected. To him more than to any one person is the Institution indebted for its present and past prosperity. To his untiring industry and executive ability of exceptional power, this is largely due. We mourn other dead, whose interest was no less, but whose shorter connection with the College gave fewer opportunities of aid. Moreover, he alone was present at its birth and watched over its life while his own remained.

Possessed of remarkable judgment, of untiring energy and of inspiring zeal, he always assumed a prominent part in all affairs with which he was connected, but his strongest and deepest affection was centered in the University of which he was one of the founders, and for which he had aims and ambitions to greatly extend and enlarge, not only in medicine, but also in all the departments granted to it by Charter. For these reasons be it,

*Resolved*, That this testimony of the surviving colleagues of Professor James P. White be placed upon the records of the Institution, and a copy be transmitted to his family.

# New York Academy of Medicine.

AT a stated meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, held October 6th, 1881, Professor Austin Flint, M. D., offered the annexed resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, and prefaced same with the following

REMARKS:

Mr. President, I rise to offer some resolutions on the occasion of the recent death of Professor James P. White, one of the Honorary Fellows of this Academy. I should do injustice to my feelings if I did not preface the resolutions by some remarks on the life of one to whom I have held the relation of intimate friendship for nearly half a century, although fully sensible that this is not the appropriate time to attempt to do justice to his memory.

The late Professor White was in many points of view a remarkable man. Intellectually he was highly endowed, and to his superior intellectual powers were added in an unusual degree, energy of character, together with decision and perseverance. To these mental qualities, conjoined with a vigorous constitution, he was indebted for a measure of professional success, as a practitioner and a teacher, which falls to the lot of but few members of our profession. He commenced his medical studies after attaining a good preliminary education. He was a zealous student in medicine, and never relinquished habits of study. But his professional career was eminently practical. His chief aim was to apply in practice and to teach successfully the principles of medicine, but particularly in the department to which he was specially devoted, and to originate practical improvements. He was a skillful practitioner and an efficient teacher. He contributed important additions to the practice of midwifery, and to the treatment of certain of the diseases of women. Among the

latter I may mention the retroversion of the inverted uterus, when this condition had existed many years; and if I mistake not, he is entitled to the credit of originality in the successful treating of these diseases. Professor White was one of the founders of the Medical School in Buffalo. It is not too much to say that the establishment and success of that flourishing institution were in a great measure due to his exertions. He was always zealous in promoting the interests of medical education. The Hospitals and other institutions for medical relief in the city of Buffalo owe much to his efforts in their behalf. He was mainly instrumental in the location and completion in that city of the State Insane Asylum, which has recently gone into operation. Nor were his labors for the public welfare restricted to objects pertaining to medicine. He was pre-eminently a public spirited citizen. Most of the charitable organizations in Buffalo are more or less indebted to his aid, by counsel and active agency, for their welfare. He was prompt to lead in sanitary measures. He had a deep interest in the prosperity of the religious denomination with which he was connected, and one of the largest and finest of the church edifices in Buffalo would probably not have been erected without his efforts. It should be added, that although a zealous member of the Episcopal Church, he was devoid of bigotry, and full of sympathy with other Christian organizations. A remarkable feature in his character was his excellent judgment in matters of business and general polity. His advice was sought after and relied upon by many in all sorts of affairs, and it was always readily given. He was strong and constant in his friendships. They who had any claim to be ranked among his friends were confident of obtaining his wise counsels in every trouble. Nothing gave him greater gratification than to place his services at the command of his professional brethren. He was warm and sincere in his domestic and social relations. His was emphatically a happy home, in which he was always glad to dispense an unbounded hospitality. A large and

lucrative practice, conjoined with prudence and sagacity, enabled him to accumulate wealth. He was remarkable in this result of his labors, but his wealth was not acquired by an unworthy use of opportunities, nor by niggardness of husbandry, nor by any dishonorable means. As an instance of his generosity, I will refer to an incident known to some but probably not to all of those present. In 1870, when Professor George T. Elliot was stricken with paralysis, the late Dr. Foster Swift was appointed to deliver the course of Lectures on Obstetrics in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Dr. Swift's health failed, so that at the commencement of the term it was considered best that he should seek a more genial climate. In this emergency, Professor White consented to give the course, and did so greatly to the satisfaction of the class and the Faculty. The fees for the course he relinquished of his own accord for the benefit of his friend Elliot, and he declined the offer of the Faculty to assume the expenses of his residence in New York during the delivery of the lectures. In order that this act of generosity might not be misconstrued, he stated in consenting to give the course, that nothing but death could disconnect him from the city with which he was identified and from the Medical School of which he was one of the founders. The departure of such a man from this life is a grievous loss to those who enjoyed his friendship. To the medical profession the loss is great. It will be deeply felt in the community in which he lived. To his family it is irreparable. They must, however, derive much consolation in the reflection that to him was vouchsafed a long career of honor and usefulness, that he was spared a painful and lingering illness, and that his memory is enshrined in many loving hearts.

RESOLUTIONS.

*Resolved*, That in the death of the late Professor James P. White, the New York Academy of Medicine mourns the loss of an

esteemed Honorary Fellow, and the medical profession has lost a distinguished and useful member.

*Resolved*, That the Fellows of the Academy tender to the widow of their late associate, and to the other members of his family, their heartfelt sympathy in the irreparable loss which they have sustained.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Academy be instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to Mrs. White.

EDWIN F. WARD, M. D.,
*Recording Secretary.*

## The Gynæcological Society of Boston.

AT the last regular meeting of the Society, Dr. H. R. Storer offered the following resolution, which it was unanimously voted should be forwarded as expressive of the sense of loss we have experienced in the death of Dr. White:

*Resolved*, That the Gynæcological Society of Boston has learned with deep sorrow of the death of its honorary associate, Professor James P. White, M. D., of Buffalo.

*Resolved*, That this Society communicate, through its President and Secretary, to the widow of Professor White, the sympathy of its members in her affliction, their personal sense of bereavement and their lasting respect for the memory of the deceased.

WM. G. WHEELER,
*President.*

HENRY M. FIELDS,
*Secretary.*

# Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

THE Faculty of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, desirous of expressing their sentiments in relation to the services of Professor James P. White, in behalf of the College during the session of 1870–71, unanimously adopted, April 4th, 1871, the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Faculty were particularly favored in being able to secure the services of so eminent a teacher and practitioner as Professor James P. White, when the College was deprived of the services of their late lamented colleague, Professor George T. Elliot.

*Resolved*, That the lectures given by Professor White in the Bellevue Hospital Medical College were characterized by great learning, the practical knowledge derived from large experience, zealous exertions to render his instruction as useful as possible, and an efficiency showing peculiar ability and qualifications as a public teacher. These characteristics were fully appreciated by the class, who received his lectures with gratitude and enthusiasm.

*Resolved*, That in refusing to receive compensation for his lectures, relinquishing the fees to Professor Elliot, Professor White exemplified a spirit of sympathy and generosity which is deserving of emulation.

*Resolved*, That the Faculty will ever cherish the remembrance of their pleasant intercourse with Professor White during his residence in New York, and they most cordially tender wishes for his welfare and for a long duration of his active usefulness.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be properly engrossed, attested, and bearing the College seal be transmitted to Professor White.

ISAAC E. TAYLOR, M. D.,
*President.*

AUSTIN FLINT, Jr., M. D.,
*Secretary.*

# Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

AT a special meeting of the Students of Bellevue Hospital Medical College of the Class of 1870–71, held at the College, December 27th, 1870, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

*Whereas*, By the illness of our esteemed Professor of Obstetrics, Dr. George T. Elliot, we have been temporarily deprived of his teachings; and,

*Whereas*, Professor James P. White, of Buffalo, in a spirit of self-sacrificing generosity has consented to occupy the chair of Professor Elliot, thus enabling the latter to recover his strength, expended in the duties of his profession, and largely in behalf of the College; therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Class of Bellevue Hospital Medical College for the session of 1870–71 do hereby testify to Professor James P. White their appreciation of his courtesy and generosity towards a professional brother.

*Resolved*, That the Class desire to express their great satisfaction with the able and efficient lectures on Obstetrics delivered by Professor White during the session of 1870–71.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be prepared and presented to Professor White in the name of the Class of Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

ROBERT TAYLOR,
WILL. C. SHAW,
DAVID M. McMASTERS,
*Committee.*

# The Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane.

AT a special meeting of the Board of Managers, held on Saturday, October 1st, 1881, the following resolutions, offered by Mr. Potter, were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Board of Managers of the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, desiring to render their tribute of respect to the memory of their late President, now resting from the labors of life, do place upon record their acknowledgment of his important services to the State and the city of his home during his long connection with this humanitarian institution.

*Resolved*, That the location and erection of this great State Asylum in our midst are due, to a large extent, to the exertions of Dr. James P. White, who has ever evinced great interest in its operations, and given largely of his personal attention to the details of its management.

*Resolved*, That we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the family of our friend and late associate.

Dr. Gray, in seconding the adoption of the resolutions, paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of his deceased friend, whom he had known intimately for many years. He was the peer of any man in his special department of the profession, and it was no compliment to say that he had no superior— it was a fact, and simple justice. The interest he felt in all public enterprises is well known to his fellow-citizens here, and he will be missed from their councils much more than they now realize.

[From GALIGNANI'S MESSENGER, Paris, France, October 28th, 1881.]

DR. JAMES P. WHITE, who died at Buffalo, at the age of seventy, was one of the oldest, ablest, and most successful practitioners of the State of New York. His professional education was acquired at Fairfield (N. Y.), Philadelphia, Edinburgh, Paris and Vienna. He was one of the movers in establishing the Buffalo Medical College, and was an active participant in the various charitable institutions with which Buffalo has been so liberally endowed. Dr. White was distinguished in the literature of his profession as well as in the lecture-room, and also in the Episcopal Church, of which he had long been a useful and devoted member. From youth to venerable age his life was without spot or blemish. He was a descendant of Peregrine White, the first male child born in the "Mayflower" colony.

[From Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, January 23, 1882.]

# Death of Mrs. James P. White.

THE recent death of Dr. James P. White is closely followed by the decease of his widow, Mary Elizabeth Penfield White. The afflicted family and friends of the lamented lady were not unprepared for this melancholy event, as the end came this morning after a somewhat prolonged illness which could only have had a fatal termination. Mrs. White held for many years an honored place in the society of Buffalo, and the announcement of her death will be received with sorrow by a very wide circle of friends. The recent loss of her life-long companion and devoted husband was a painful blow, which undoubtedly accelerated her own untimely decease.

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